REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-27 are pending and claims 2 and 4 are canceled.

Formal drawings are enclosed with this response.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wegner (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,664). Claim 1 includes the limitation that an abutment 22 is misaligned with the release element 14 in a rest position, and aligned with the release element 14 in the unlocked position. Examiner states that abutment (1.26A) comes into alignment when it contacts coupling member (2.6). However, the abutment (1.26A) never changes the path of rotation about the pivot (1.10), and is therefore always in correct relative position to engage the coupling member (2.6). In other words, the abutment (1.26A) is simply rotated about the pivot (1.10) in a fixed path correctly positioned to engage the coupling member (2.6). There is never a misalignment of the abutment (1.26A) because the abutment is always in the correct position to engage the coupling member (2.6). The abutment (1.26A) maintains a fixed arcuate path that does not change and is therefore always aligned. Accordingly, Wegner does not disclose a misalignment as is required in claim 1.

Claim 20 includes the limitation that the abutment moves initially in an arcuate path into engagement with a latch release mechanism, and then moves linearly once engaged with the latch release element. Wegner discloses that the abutments (1.26A, 1.26B) are attached to coupling elements (1.11), and the coupling elements (1.11) turn about the fixed pivot (1.10). The coupling elements (1.11) and abutments (1.26A, 1.26B) move arcuately about the pivot (1.10) and are constrained against movement linearly. The abutments (1.26A, 1.26B) cannot move linearly about the fixed pivot (1.10). Wegner does not disclose linear movement of the abutments (1.26A and B) as is required in claim 20. Accordingly, because Wegner does not disclose linear movement of abutments (1.26A and B), claim 20 is not anticipated by Wegner.

Further, the Examiner is mistaken in stating that the coupling member (2.6) moves the latch release (Col 4, lines 56-62). The abutments (1.26A, 1.26 B) rotate about the pivot (1.10) into the coupling member (2.6). Coupling member (2.6) then transmits rotational movement from the coupling elements (1.11) to the abutment (1.27) of the pawl (1.9). Only movement of the coupling elements (1.11) can cause movement of the pawl (1.9) The portion of the specification referred to by the Examiner describes movement of the coupling member (2.6) into

differing positions that allow for the selective transmission of rotational movement from the coupling elements (1.11) to the pawl (1.9). None of these movements by the coupling elements (1.11), the abutments (1.26A, 1.26B) or the pawl (1.9) is linear. Accordingly, Wegner does not disclose the limitations of claim 20.

Claim 21 includes the limitation that a part of the release mechanism held by the magnet in the locked condition, is not held in the locked position by the magnet when in the unlocked condition. The Examiner believes that in Wegner the electromagnet (2.1) holds the element (2.6) at all times and in all positions. If this is so, Wegner does not disclose the limitation recited in claim 21 that in the unlocked condition a part of the release mechanism is not held by the magnet. Alternatively, the electromagnet (2.1) in Wegner is only described as moving the coupling member (2.6) not holding as is required by claim 21. Accordingly, claim 21 includes limitations not disclosed by Wegner.

Claim 22 includes the limitation that a release link includes an abutment movable between a misaligned position with the release element, and an unlocked position where the abutment is aligned with the release element. The coupling member (2.6) disclosed in Wegner moves to allow transmission of rotational movement between the coupling elements (1.11) and the pawl (1.9). The transmission of rotational movement occurs by movement of the coupling member (2.6) between abutments (1.26A, 126B) on the coupling elements (1.11) and the abutment (1.27) on the pawl (1.9). The abutments (1.26A, 126B) are not movable into and out of correct relative position; they simply rotate with the coupling elements (1.11) into engagement with the coupling member (2.6) causing rotation of the pawl (1.9) about the pivot (1.10). If anything disclosed in Wegner moves into and out of correct relative position, it is the coupling element (2.6), not the abutments (1.26A, 1.26B) as is required by claim 22. Accordingly, because the abutments (1.26A, 1.26B) are not movable into and out of alignment with a release element, Wegner does not disclose all the elements required in claim 22.

Accordingly, Applicant requests favorable consideration of this response. Please contact Applicants agent at the below listed number if it is felt that a teleconference would aid in forwarding this application to grant. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account

60,130-1295

No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 3677, After Final, 703-872-9327 on September 17, 2003.

Amy M. Spaulding